



Unpaid Internship with Growing Hope FARMERS MARKET FOOD ASSISTANCE INTERNSHIP

About Growing Hope

Growing Hope is a 15-year-old non-profit organization rooted in Ypsilanti, Michigan whose mission is to foster an equitable and sustainable local food system that empowers all people to grow, buy, sell, prepare, and eat nourishing food. We envision a community where all people--particularly those with barriers due to race, class, culture, language, ability, and mobility--have access to nourishing local food that is culturally appropriate and affordable. People can grow and prepare their own harvests, and may earn a living as a food grower, producer, or entrepreneur.

Our areas of work include Youth & Schools, Farm & Garden, Farmers Markets, and Food Entrepreneurship. This position will work at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets including the downtown and Depot Town locations. The Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace hosts the Ypsilanti Downtown Farmers Market as well as MarketPlace Hall for events and rentals, and the Growing Hope Incubator Kitchen.

Organizational Culture and Values

Our culture is rooted in our values: Transformation, Education, Justice & Equity, Placemaking, and Integrity. We commit to upholding inclusive practices and policies while creating space for courageous conversations as a staff and within our community. Instead of simply providing services, we aim to leverage the vast resources already within our community in order to empower and partner with participants and customers. We believe that community members have the ability to make their own decisions about their health and wellness goals and that Growing Hope acts as a resource to increase access and opportunities to meet these goals.

Areas of interest:

Food assistance benefits, Food Security, Food Justice, Community Outreach

Position Description:

The Food Assistance Intern(s) will work with the Ypsilanti Farmers Market team to operate and enhance the food assistance and token currency programs at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. Interns will gain a thorough knowledge of food assistance programs at farmers markets and participate in outreach and marketing to optimize food assistance participation at the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets. The Food Assistance Interns will assist with the distribution of token currencies at one or both of our Ypsilanti Farmers Markets (YFM), the Tuesday afternoon YFM-Downtown and/or the Saturday morning YFM- Depot Town. Additionally, each intern will choose a topic of their choice related to food insecurity and farmers markets for self-study. This intern will work under the supervision of and report to the Farmers Market & Nutrition Manager.

Tasks include:

- Arrive prior to beginning of market and remain to the end of the market.
- Transport token currencies and other materials from storage to market, and back.
- Organize, maintain, and keep inventory of token supplies in storage and at market.
- Operate various technology to process credit card and SNAP/EBT transactions.
- Accurately distribute tokens.
- Educate customers on proper use of SNAP/EBT and the other currencies and ways to pay at our YFM.

- Answer questions for vendors and customers regarding food assistance and token currency programs.
- Keep detailed and accurate records of all token transactions.
- Assist with data entry and program evaluation.
- Accompany market team to outreach events. Distribute flyers and SNAP information to target population.
 - Attend events unaccompanied after proper instruction is given.
- Assist with other Food Security Partnership projects as needed.

Qualified candidates will exhibit the following:

- Ability to lift 20 pounds and work in all weather conditions.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with experience providing top-notch customer service to customers and visitors of all backgrounds.
- Ability to work efficiently and accurately in counting, distributing, sorting, and recording tokens.
- Attention to detail a must.
- Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Passion for healthy food, an interest in food justice and food systems, and a belief that all people deserve access to healthy food.
- A team player who will pitch in as needed for market set up and take down, and other market needs as they arise.

Unpaid Availability:

Ability to work Tuesdays and/or Saturdays during the market season for a minimum of 12 hrs/week.

Summer Term: April 1, 2019-August 31, 2019. *Intern applicants who can serve for the Fall Term will be given priority.*

Fall Term: August 12-October 30, 2019. Indoor Market continues until December 17, 2019. Preference given to someone who can stay on until December.

We understand that school schedules and school internship requirements may differ from the market season. Minimum commitment requirement is **10 hours per week for 12 weeks**.

To Apply: Please apply by March 8, 2019 with a list of relevant experience or resume and cover letter (1 page) that includes what you hope to gain during your internship, and what you think you could most contribute. Also include your desired hours and schedule availability. Please send these documents to apply@growinghope.net or drop them off in person to the Growing Hope Urban Farm at 922 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. No formal education is required for this position.

Growing Hope encourages people of color and individuals who possess an in-depth understanding of poverty or economic hardship to apply. We welcome a diverse pool of applicants and make employment decisions on the basis of merit. We do not discriminate potential employees based on race, creed, age, physical ability, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status. Accommodations will be made so that the application process and position is made accessible for qualified applicants.